

REDMOND PARK BOARD

Minutes

April 3, 2003

Old Fire House Teen Center

I. Call to order

The regular meeting of the Redmond Park Board was called to order by Chairperson Lori Snodgrass at 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Chair Lori Snodgrass, Seth Kelsey, David Degenstein, Ann Callister, Suzanne Querry, David Ladd

Absent and excused: Youth Advocate Katherine Zak

City staff present: Tim Cox, Manager of Parks Planning; Danny Hopkins, Parks and Recreation Director; Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager; Kate Becker, Program Administrator, Old Fire House Teen Center; Shannon Roach, Assistant Director, Old Fire House Teen Center

Citizen Guests: None

II. Approval of Minutes

Motion for approval of March 6, 2003 Redmond Park Board minutes as submitted by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: Ann Callister

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

III. Items from the Audience

None

IV. Additions to the Agenda/Handouts/Items of Interest

A. Additions to the Agenda

- Tour of Teen Center & New Media Room Facility

Kate Becker, Program Administrator, Old Fire House Teen Center, and Shannon Roach, Assistant Director, Old Fire House Teen Center conducted Board members on a tour of the upgraded Teen Center and new media room facility. A grand opening of the facility is scheduled for 5/7/03 at 6:00 p.m. All were invited.

Becker acknowledged the Paul Allen Foundation, which contributed grant funding for the project, Joe Hadlock, owner of Bear Creek Studio, who donated time to design the teen center studio, and the electrician who donated his time for the electrical work on the project.

Becker reported that the space would be used for audio and video productions (lab) as well as classes. Specialists will be brought in on a regular basis to teach. Young artists will learn both creative and vocational skills in the recording studio.

Becker informed the Board that she would be leaving employment with the City on 5/23/03, due to a move out of state. She thanked the Parks Department for all their support over the past 11 years she has worked with the Teen Center. Hopkins, Bettencourt, and the Board commended Becker for her many contributions in making the Teen Center such a success.

B. Handouts

- Arbor Day Flyers
- Signage Along Redmond's Trail System
- Public Works NE 83rd Street Corridor Upcoming Activities
- Redmond Arts Commission (RAC) Sculpture Exhibit Brochure
- RAC 2002 Annual Report
- Old Fire House Teen Center Events Calendar

C. Items of Interest

- Hopkins announced Councilman Richard Cole has invited all Park Board members to the City Council study session on 4/8/03 for the PRO Plan presentation.

- Snodgrass will be meeting with others to help set the agenda for the upcoming joint meeting with City Council at a study session meeting in June. *The Board was asked to inform her of their ideas.*
- Snodgrass reported *Sara's Sanctuary* has found a location on Novelty Hill for their non-profit organization. Flyers with the sanctuary's information can be found at Petco and Farm Depot. Kelsey also noted there had been a news article written on the business and their new location.

V. Old Business

A. Level of Service - Planning

Hopkins reported staff highlighted changes in the agenda heading from "Level of Service" to "Planning Targets and Park Inventory," which outlines how elements of the park system are counted. For example, interior circulation trails in parks are not counted toward meeting city-wide trail mileage standards; rather, only trail corridors and major trails that provide both recreational and transportation functions are counted.

Hopkins reviewed the park facilities projected needs with assigned weights. Fields were given a baseline definition and then weighted by assigned factors if they were enhanced to significantly increase play (e.g., addition of artificial turf, lights, etc.). Staff has endeavored to verify this approach through demand analysis and surveys. Staff invited Board's feedback regarding this approach. Hopkins will touch on this in the introductory PRO Plan presentation to Council on April 8. Elementary schools were not weighted as neighborhood parks because of security issues. Junior and senior high facilities (e.g. tennis courts) were partially weighted because of part-time use by Redmond citizens.

Kelsey favored the new definition "environmental areas" category and would like to see an environmental subcommittee "watch dog" formed. Cox noted that the Department of Natural Resources has increased employees to perform the overseeing of the environment. Snodgrass believed the "weighted description" was difficult to understand and needed more simplification.

B. PRO Plan Workshop Preparation

Hopkins reviewed the five slides that staff will use to introduce the PRO Plan to City Council:

1. Project Goals
2. Plan inclusions
3. Why revision is necessary
4. Revisions being considered
5. Timeline

Following this PowerPoint presentation, Carolyn Browne, survey consultant, will review the survey results to Council.

Hopkins anticipated the PRO Plan would be finished in July, and thereby would place it in the next IAC 6-month grant cycle for some of the current developing projects. Cox suggested that the April 8 Council presentation is an introduction of the PRO Plan to Council. He could also foresee a possible second study session where more of the body of the Plan would be presented.

The Board noted two typographical errors in the PowerPoint material:

- Major Themes - continued, third bullet: "...have great appreciation..."
- Interest in new arts facilities, second bullet: "amphitheater"

Hopkins advised that Council might wish to discuss other agenda items with the Board, e.g., funding issues. Snodgrass expressed that the Board would need the background information on funding from the Finance Department in order to be prepared for Council's funding questions. Kelsey added that the Board could not take a stand on recommendations or proposals to Council until the Board had opportunity to hear from the Finance Department.

Snodgrass announced there would be a joint meeting with City Council June 10 regarding Park and Recreation issues including a Park Bond. Cox emphasized that the meeting with Council next week is on the PRO Plan, not the bond issue.

C. Park Bond

Discussion postponed.

Hopkins reported the Finance Department was unable to send a representative to this Board meeting due to unavailable personnel. *Park staff would endeavor to have a representative from Finance at the next Board meeting.*

D. Recognition Award

Snodgrass proposed the idea of a Redmond citizen recognition award that would honor volunteers who help with planning and/or participation in the park system. A certificate could be presented annually to any individual(s) at a City Council meeting, honoring them for their exceptional volunteer service to the community. Callister and Kelsey supported the idea, but suggested there would first need to be criteria and guidelines. Ladd proposed investigating criteria used by King County and other cities that may have a similar award.

Degenstein suggested putting a nomination form in the *Focus* magazine or *Redmond Recreational Guide*, as well as the City's web site. The Board supported the idea of the award. *Callister will research criteria and bring to the next meeting.*

Cox reported that staff has submitted three nominations for WRPA awards this year for the following accomplishments:

1. Watershed trailhead comfort station
2. Anderson Park playground restoration
3. Skate Park construction project

Hopkins also noted that the Fire House Teen Center has applied for the Dorothy Mullen Award for the Center's renovation project

E. Fire Station Art

Sandra Bettencourt, Recreation Program Manager, gave an update on the Fire Station 11 artwork. Through the 1% for Art money, the City was able to commission an artist to sculpt a bronze fire fighter. The sculpture would be modeled after a long-time Redmond fire fighter (now deceased), to be life size and elevated four feet from the ground. It was approved by City Council in 2002.

The Arts Commission seeks an appropriate setting for the statue. At a previous discussion, Arts Commissioner Chair Jill Smith and Hopkins discussed the possibility of a mini-plaza. Bettencourt showed three sites plan drawings of the plaza concept by Roy Lehner, Park Planner, which have been reviewed by the fire fighters. The plaza would be used for award ceremonies, fire station tours, and a gathering/stopping place for citizens. The cost would be between \$30,000 to \$40,000 for the plaza. The new plaza would tie into events with Redmond's 90th year anniversary celebration.

Hopkins reported that the fire fighters might attempt to raise \$20,000 for an additional art bench to be designed in the future by the same artist. Bettencourt added that if the fire fighters are not able to raise money for the bench, the City could use artist-made building parts to construct a bench for the plaza. Roy Lehner has designed the plaza to accommodate the future bench.

The plaza idea has not been presented to Council; Staff is waiting for the bids to come in for Grass Lawn and Perrigo Parks before presentation. Hopkins also noted that sometime in June when staff revisits the CIP, support funding might be found for the plaza within the CIP.

VI. New Business

A. Teen Center Celebration - May 7, 2003, 6:00 p.m.

So noted by the Board.

B. Senior Center Computer Corner

In addition to \$10,000 Microsoft has given the City for bleachers at Grass Lawn Park, Hopkins reported that Microsoft has also given \$8,000 and several thousand dollars in software for the setting up of the Senior Center computer corner. This will provide seniors with Internet access and computer classes. The City is also considering video-computerized enhancements, of which Microsoft would be involved. Hopkins noted that Microsoft has been very generous in giving to the City, including \$25,000 for special events.

The City's IS department has been working with Microsoft to train City staff who will teach the senior citizens.

Hopkins also reported that staff is looking for new activities to offer at the Senior Center, e.g., a cardio-fitness component. Snodgrass suggested extending out adult programming offered by the City to utilize what is available at the Center during off-hours. Hopkins noted the City is offering seniors multi-generational ideas, e.g., seniors and high school students teaming with creative ideas in a planning session on the future in Redmond. Querry suggested the City could sponsor programs between schools and seniors, e.g., link students as pen pals with seniors on the computer.

Degenstein reported the high school is starting a "culminating project" beginning with the class of 2005, and is looking for project ideas now to suggest to the students. In one year from now, those juniors will choose their project idea. Degenstein suggested staff could contact the principal, Brian Hunter, at Redmond Senior High and offer input. *Hopkins will follow up.*

VII. Reports

A. Grass Lawn Status

Hopkins announced the City would be going out to bid in two weeks for Phase II of Grass Lawn Park improvement project.

B. Perrigo Park Status

Cox announced the bids came in today for the construction of Perrigo Community Park: Lowest bid came in 14% below the engineering estimate; another low bid came in at 10% below the estimate. The bids included alternatives such as concrete light standards and entryway art columns.

Following this estimate, and the Grass Lawn Park bids that come in; staff will evaluate the cash flow to see how other projects might be assisted. On April 15, the City Council will award the bid. Ground breaking is anticipated in May 2003.

C. Youth in Government Day/Emergency Preparedness

Hopkins reported on the successful Youth in Government Day event. This year's topic was an earthquake recovery exercise. It was an opportunity to update the City's disaster preparedness manuals, as well as to educate the students on the disaster preparedness plan. The students worked as teams representing City department heads, and operated in different scenarios of emergency. This required the students to prioritize and come up with a plan to address the emergency.

D. Parks and Human Services Committee (PHSC) Meetings

Snodgrass reported that the PHSC has requested a Park Board member to attend their meetings, held the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. Councilperson Holly Plackett conveyed to Snodgrass that it would be a good opportunity for the Council to connect with the Park Board by having a representative present. The Board agreed on a rotation system of members who would be available to attend that time of day. Since no agenda was set for this month, *members will circulate a sign up sheet next month.*

E. Park Board Positions

Snodgrass reported there was an ad in the paper for the Park Board position available. One inquiry was received and directed to submit an application.

Snodgrass further reported that youth advocate Kathryn Zak will be staying with the Park Board until June. She has expressed interest in continuing on as youth advocate following the end of her present term in June.

F. Park Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Snodgrass reminded Board members that election of officers would soon be held. She asked members to be thinking about nominations for chair and vice chair next month.

VIII. Upcoming Items

- Idylwood Master Plan - May
- CIP Status Report - June
- Arbor Day at Grass Lawn Park - April 25, 4:00 p.m.
- City Council Study Session - April 8
- Coast Guard Park construction - starting immediately
- CIP modification - June (pending outcomes of Grass Lawn bids)
- Celebration of Redmond Pool with Northwest Center - May 10
- Idylwood Park Stream Restoration Project Opening and Pickering Kiosk Dedication - April 21, 2:00 p.m.
- Idylwood Park bubble design concept by Roy Lehner presented to Park Board - May 1

IX. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by: Seth Kelsey

Second by: Suzanne Querry

Motion carried: 6-0 unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

By: _____
Lori Snodgrass, Chair

Date

Minutes prepared by Recording Secretary, Pam Maybee

Next Regular Meeting

May 1, 2003

7:00 p.m.

Location: Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center